

## DUBLIN/DARLINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

January 15, 2014

### Conowingo Visitor Center

**Members Present:** Rich Norling, Chair  
Jane Howe, Secretary  
Tom Friedel  
David Hickman  
Lilma Huntley  
Russell Kovach  
Joni Nugent  
Brendan Patton  
Donald Thomas  
Alan Thompson  
Shirley Thompson

**Guests:** Lt. Rich Miller  
Bob Riley  
Andrew Tress

Rich Norling called the meeting to order at 7:06PM.

**Review of Minutes:** There was one correction to the minutes. The minutes of November 20, 2013 were approved as corrected.

**Sheriff's Representative:** Lt. Rich Miller distributed the Dublin District Crime Scene Report for December 2013. See attachment. He said there was not significant change in comparison to December 2012. Part One Crime, serious crime, was down for the period. In addition, several complaints were called in for illegal fireworks on New Year's Eve and hunting too close to a residence. The Aviation Unit becomes operational this month and is based out of the Forest Hill Air Park, a good central location. For a detailed press release, go to [http://www.harfordsheriff.org/news/files/hcso.press\\_release.719.pdf](http://www.harfordsheriff.org/news/files/hcso.press_release.719.pdf). A question came up about cars passing a stopped school bus. There is a hefty fine for this violation but the driver needs to be identified and reported. There was a request to ask a representative from the State Police to give a presentation on crime stats since they are not included in Sheriff Office stats.

**Andrew Tress for County Council President Billy Boniface:** Andrew Tress reported for Billy Boniface. Issues include development projects coming before DAC with two in Fallston, the Eva Mar Senior Center, and a CCRC (Continuing Care Retirement Center). Regarding the "Rain Tax" bill, noncompliance could be expensive. Barry Glassman is introducing legislation to spell out what fines will be enforced. The storm water remediation fee has already collected funds which are kept in a dedicated escrow account. Go to <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/Interests/Index.cfm?ID=10> for details. The other issue likely to dominate the 2014 Legislative Session is raising the minimum wage.

On the local front, items under consideration include holding landlords accountable for livability standards, a new Bel Air Fire Company once the CCRC is built, purchase of the Water Street property in Havre de Grace, and a Community Input meeting for a new Youths Benefit elementary school. There was a question about whether the CCRC will have to pay an impact fee. Andrew will find out.

**Rich Norling, State News:** Rich is the Legislative Director for the DNR. He said the Senate has already passed three bills, but in a political year, some bills will pass one body and not the other. Storm water management is a big topic for debate. The Governor announced his proposed budget today. The legislative package will be presented on Friday. Wildland designations in 15 counties include Soldier's Delight, closest to Harford, which has been nominated for increase in size. Nine new wildlands have been identified.

In an update on Palmer Sate Park, Rich said there will be an update at the March meeting. Tom Friedel asked how the community will know about this new park? Will there be advertising to the community? Andrew will ask Billy.

In an update on Harford Community College, Rich said work is progressing on Darlington Hall, the new Nursing & Allied Health building on the main campus. On the other side of Thomas Run Road, construction is progressing on Towson University. The plan is called 2 + 2. Two years for an Associate Degree and then transfer to Towson and get a four year degree. HEAT Center classes will be moving into the building as well with more higher education courses. The proposed capital budget priorities are to finish Darlington Hall and renovate Edgewood Hall. And while HCC tuition is still the lowest in the State, a raise in tuition is scheduled. Remaining agenda items include consolidating apprentice programs into one building and reviewing building use by the Sheriff's Academy. When asked about parking and future construction of a parking garage, Rich answered that up until recently, the State would not pay but are now paying some of the construction costs.

**Old Business:** The DDCC has openings for new members. The State Police will be contacted to send a guest speaker to the March meeting.

**Good of the Council:** Russell Kovach reminded everyone that the Winter Reading Program of the Darlington Library is active NOW. He asked people to please sign up because Darlington gets credit. Five books need to be read between now and March 1. Books on tape count toward the total.

On behalf of a local resident, Jane Howe asked about review of putting a round-a-bout on Route 161 coming into Darlington and/or downgrading a five mile stretch of the road from State to County as it passes through the Village. There was a request for an update on the turn signal at Route 136 at Route 1. Andrew will contact SHA.

There was a brief discussion about placement of political signs.

Copies of the January 21034 were made available along with copies of the new Southern Harford County Magazine.

Joni Nugent presented informational posters about AARP Tax Aide in Harford County.

There was a question about where to recycle used mattresses which lead to a discussion of local use of Scarboro Landfill once it is closed to commercial trash trucks. It will stay open for local residential use.

There was a short discussion and explanation of the accidental error on the DVFC Ambulance Club card donation forms.

**Adjournment:** Joni Nugent made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Lilma Huntley. The meeting adjourned at 8:16PM.

**Next Meeting: February 19, 2014, 7:00PM at Conowingo Visitor Center.**

Respectfully submitted, Jane Howe